

prides its freedom and how our determination can accomplish any tasks and defeat any foe. And these accomplishments of the Greatest Generation serve as an inspiration to us all.

OUR NATION'S FISCAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today once again to express my disappointment with the lack of attention to our Nation's fiscal crisis. The system is broken, plain and simple. We need to focus our efforts on finding a cure for our addiction to deficit spending in this body.

The Blue Dog Coalition, which I am a proud member of, has been a leading voice in Congress on fiscal responsibility for over a decade. Recently the Blue Dogs have posted signs in front of all of our offices that explain to everyone exactly how bad the fiscal crisis is, an example of which is on my right here.

We update the numbers on these signs every day. The sad part is that our Nation's debt is increasing so fast that by the end of each day, these signs are inaccurate. As you can see from the sign, today the National debt is at \$7,755,874,000 or \$27,000-plus per person. Ladies and gentlemen, these numbers are appalling.

The Blue Dogs are dedicated to fighting our Nation's ballooning national debt, and we will continue to lead the fight for fiscal sanity until Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and the White House realize that we cannot continue to run our Nation deeper and deeper into the deficit hole.

There is no secret that our National debt is out of control, as we are expected to run another \$427 billion deficit in 2005, with more deficits projected into the future. We do not even have a firm grip, ladies and gentlemen, on where our money is going. At the Department of Defense, for example, only 6 of 63 departments are able to produce a clean audit. That is less than 10 percent.

This budget we passed omits so many major expenses that frankly it is a sham. The administration essentially cooked the books using Enron-style accounting and Congress is just blindly going along with the program.

We all know as well that foreign holdings of U.S. debt is on the rise. Interest on the national debt is the fastest growing area of our budget. And the trade deficit is totally out of control as well.

As this happens, what are we doing? Ladies and gentlemen, we are doing absolutely nothing. Recently the Blue Dogs introduced a 12-step reform program to cure our Nation's addiction to deficit spending. It requires a balanced budget, stops Congress from buying on credit, and puts a lid on spending.

We have a provision in this plan that requires pay-as-you-go budgeting, so

that when we have an increase in the budget, or we have a tax decrease, we have to offset them. The principles in this 12-step reform plan should be able to be agreed on by everyone. The plan injects a little common sense into the way Congress and the White House does business.

I hope that some day this Congress will wake up and help us restore our fiscal responsibility as a Nation. The time to stop digging the hole deeper is now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING JUDGE ANDREW L. JEFFERSON, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, often we do rise on the floor of the House to begin a debate that may not end itself in a positive outcome. It is not often that you have the opportunity to raise and salute an outstanding member of your community knowing that his life is already exhibited a positive outcome, and, of course, we honor him as he still lives.

My friend and our friend, and the friend of Houston and Texas and the Nation, Judge Andrew Jefferson, brings me to the floor this evening. And I am delighted to be able to rise this evening to honor a great legal scholar, as well as a great institution of legal education located in the 18th Congressional District of Texas. The institution about which I speak is the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, established in 1947, and the scholar and friend is Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr.

At a time when the future of Houston's public school system is in jeopardy, I am especially pleased to deliver this statement in honor of a scholar and a product of our own Jack Yates High School.

On Friday, May 6, 2005, I will join my constituents and friends to honor Judge Jefferson on the establishment of an endowment for trial advocacy in his name, the first endowed chair, called the Andrew L. Jefferson endowment for trial advocacy, at Texas Southern University, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas.

I wish all of us had the opportunity to meet this distinguished gentleman. He is truly distinguished, regal in his build, deep in his commitment. The Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, a native of Dallas, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959 after earning his Bachelor's de-

gree from Texas Southern University, was president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and became a partner with Washington and Jefferson, attorneys at law in Houston, Texas.

He served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar Country, a chief assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas, and a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil and Refining Company.

Each time he was a pioneer, he explored new ground, and certainly as an African American, getting his degrees in the late 1950s, going through the 1960s before the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1965, the Voting Rights Act, he truly braved new areas and stood for the dignity and respect of all, all in our community.

Judge Jefferson served in the judge advocate general corps in the U.S. Army Reserve where he is honorably discharged as a captain. He has as his lovely bride, another civic leader, his wife, Mary Jefferson, who I have the pleasure of serving with on a number of organizations. She believes in education. She advocates for quality education for our young people, and promotes the opportunities for young people to go to college.

In 1970, Judge Jefferson was appointed to preside over the Court of Domestic Relations number 2 for Harris County. In 1974, he was elected to Judge of the 208th District Court. That too was one of the many firsts in his career, but as well, he is one of the first African Americans to serve on that court.

He decided to reenter the active practice of law in 1975, and was admitted to the United States Court of Appeals for Fifth, Sixth and Eleventh Circuits, and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. A long time active committee member of the State bar, Judge Andrew L. Jefferson is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a member of American Bar Foundation, the Texas Trial Lawyer's Association, Texas Constitutional Revision Commission. He is an outstanding jurist, and even after he left the bench, he was constantly requested to give his expertise on broad legal issues.

He represented many of the underserved and unempowered. He became active in many organizations and particularly the National Bar Association, the Family Law Institute, where he was asked to speak many, many times. He was an arbitrator, he was a mediator. He had the ability to bring people together. And so a lot of his practice developed around that on the domestic court.

But, he was skilled as a jurist, and as an advocate, but his personality was one that was firm but understanding. He served, of course, in the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, and he was respected by presidents, both Democrats and Republicans. He received many honors and awards: The Anti-Defamation League National

Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Community Service Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens Service Award, Community Service Award, the La Raza Award.

In addition, he was a Presidential nominee to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, indicating our great respect for him at the Federal level.

Let me suggest to you that he had many friends. I am reminded of my conversation with the Honorable Barbara Jordan. When I was returning to Texas, I asked who should we engage, and who should we find out about Texas, its mood, its needs, its struggles, its trials, its tribulations?

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Barbara Jordan, as I sat in her office, said, "Judge Andrew Jefferson." He was her friend, her advisor and counselor.

They were strong friends together because they believed in the empowerment of all. They fought for civil rights one and all. As she believed in the empowerment of the Voter Rights Act of 1965, expanding it to Texas in 1968, Judge Jefferson was right along her side.

This is a fitting honor, an endowed chair that will be bestowed upon him on May 6. I believe it is more than his choice, but our desire to be able to honor him, to be able to salute him as he is being endowed by a chair on May 6, 2005. He is a great Texan, a great American. God bless him and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor a great legal scholar and a great institution of legal education in the Eighteenth Congressional District of Houston, Texas. The institution about which I speak is the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University (TSU), established in 1947 and the scholar is Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. At a time when the future of Houston's public school system is in jeopardy, I am especially pleased to deliver this statement in honor of a scholar who is the product of our own Yates High School.

On Friday, May 6, 2005, I will join my constituents to honor Judge Jefferson on the occasion of the establishment of an endowment for trial advocacy in his name as the first endowed Chair, called the "Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy" at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas.

Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, a native of Dallas, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959 after earning his bachelor's degree from TSU where he was the president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and became a partner with Washington and Jefferson, Attorneys at Law, in Houston. He served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar County, a chief assistant United States attorney for the Western District of Texas, and a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil & Refining Company. In addition, Judge Jefferson served in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the United States Army Reserve where he was honorably discharged as a Captain.

In 1970, Judge Jefferson was appointed to preside over the Court of Domestic Relations #2 for Harris County, and in 1974, he was elected judge of the 208th District Court, Harris County. In 1975, he decided to re-engage in private practice and is admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth, Sixth, and Eleventh Circuits and the Supreme Court of the United States.

A longtime active committee member of the State Bar of Texas, Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. is also a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a member of the American Bar Foundation, the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, and the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission. This outstanding jurist, who is renowned for his expertise in legal practice, is a highly sought-after speaker throughout his career and has frequently shared his experience and knowledge with the Criminal Law Institute for the Houston Bar Association and the San Antonio Bar Association. Furthermore, Judge Jefferson has spoken at conventions for the National Bar Association and the Family Law Institute.

Aside from the respect that he has earned as a skilled jurist and advocate, Judge Jefferson's leadership and sound judgment has merited tenures as chairman of the board of the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank and of the Texas Southern University Foundation. Moreover, he is a life member of the Houston Area Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He has received numerous awards and honors, among them the Anti-Defamation League National Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Community Service Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award, and the Community Service Award from La Raza. In addition, he was a Presidential Nominee to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

To honor Judge Jefferson on this occasion will be momentous for the City of Houston, for Texas Southern University, and for minorities worldwide who aspire to study and practice law or for minority students who lack confidence in their potential to succeed. I congratulate and thank the State of Texas for its contribution to the overall accrual of the resources that were required for the endowment.

The establishment of a Trial Advocacy program at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law will be both an actual and a symbolic landmark. As recently as last year, I joined the students, legislators, and community leaders at Prairie View A&M University on the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to fight for fair and unobstructed voting rights for those students. It was the skilled advocacy of the Lawyer's Committee that produced a statement by the Secretary of State in favor of the students. Furthermore, the well-settled jurisprudence of *caselaw* such as *Symm v. United States* and *United States v. Texas*, which made important pronouncements as to the adequacy of students' residency/domicile status to determine eligibility to vote were the product of skilled trial advocacy. Without the work of the skilled advocates who argued those cases, we would have an even longer journey to equality of the right to vote in this nation.

Therefore, the endowment that will be established in the name of the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. will provide a legacy and

will produce legal scholars who will contribute to the achievement of equality in the United States of America. I congratulate the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University and I thank Judge Jefferson for his service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLES of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FEENEY. addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GREATEST TRAGEDY OF MANKIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, when I came here in 1997, we passed the first balanced Budget Act in 30 years. That was a result of the work of a lot of people. I do not take credit for making that happen. But then after having a balanced budget and running a surplus until the year 2001, beginning in January of that year, when we turned over this great country to the Bush administration and a Republican majority in the House and the Senate, and let us be very clear about that. The Republicans have controlled the House, the Senate, the White House and the Supreme Court for all of this time. And we have turned over a \$5 trillion surplus to these people.

Now, as we just saw a few minutes ago from one of our conscientious Blue Dogs, they have turned that \$5 trillion surplus into an \$8 trillion debt. And just last week when the budget was passed that I voted against and most of the Democrats voted against, as far as I know all of them did, they raised the debt ceiling again to \$9 trillion.

We are having to raise the debt ceiling almost \$1 trillion a year to keep up with the total mismanagement of the people's affairs by the Republicans. It would be hard to imagine a greater fiscal disaster than the Bush administration has led us to.

Over and over and over again, we tried to reach out and we tried to say, let us reestablish the budget rules that got us to a surplus back in the 90s. Let us admit that we have got a problem. Let us require a balanced budget. Let us require pay-as-you-go. If you cannot pay for it, you cannot spend it. Let us make borrowing money from our children and grandchildren much more difficult to do, and it should only be done in cases of great national emergency.

Recently, the President has gone before the Nation and declared he wants to save Social Security. Regardless of the outcome of what he wants to do, if we do not take care of the debt and the deficit, all we are doing is rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. It is a ridiculous exercise to talk about changing the Social Security system